

Claims

This Complete Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the subject application.

1. (Previously presented) A sterilization package for enclosing a device during a sterilization procedure and storing the device in sterile form thereafter, the package comprising:
 - a barrier film defining an interior space;
 - the barrier film sealing the interior space from contaminating microorganisms;
 - at least a portion of the barrier film being formed of a semi-permeable material which is permeable to sterilizing gases and impermeable to contaminating microorganisms;
 - and
 - at least a portion of an outer surface of the package having thereon a friction enhancing material;
 - wherein the friction enhancing material is applied in a pattern while not impeding permeation of sterilizing gases.
2. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein the barrier film is flexible.
3. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 2 wherein the barrier film is formed of two separate film panels sealed together by a peripheral seal.
4. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 3 wherein both film panels have the friction enhancing material thereon.

5. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 3 wherein at least one of the film panels consists of the semi-permeable material wherein a portion of the semi-permeable material has the friction enhancing material thereon.
6. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 1 containing a medical instrument.
7. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein the friction enhancing material comprises an elastomer.
8. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 7 wherein the elastomer comprises silicone.
9. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the semi-permeable material has the friction enhancing material thereon.
10. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein the friction enhancing material is on the semi-permeable material in a pattern which leaves a portion of the semi-permeable material uncovered by the friction enhancing material.
11. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 10 wherein the pattern is uniformly distributed over the semi-permeable material.
12. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 11 wherein the pattern is uniformly distributed over the barrier film.

13. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 10 wherein the portion of the semi-permeable material uncovered by the friction enhancing material is greater than 25 percent.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 1 wherein a portion of the barrier film is formed of an impermeable material which is impermeable to sterilizing gases and contaminating microorganisms, and the friction enhancing material is located on the impermeable material.
17. (Previously presented) A sterilization package for enclosing a device during a sterilization procedure and storing the device in sterile form thereafter, the package comprising:
- a barrier film defining an interior space;
 - the barrier film sealing the interior space from contaminating microorganisms;
 - at least a portion of the barrier film being formed of a semi-permeable material which is permeable to sterilizing gases and impermeable to contaminating microorganisms;
 - and
 - at least a portion of an outer surface of the package having thereon a friction enhancing material;
 - wherein the friction enhancing material is applied on the semi-permeable material in a pattern while not impeding permeation of sterilizing gases.
18. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 17 wherein the pattern is uniformly distributed over the semi-permeable material.

19. (Previously presented) The sterilization package according to claim 17 wherein the pattern is distributed over the entire barrier film.

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A sterilization package for enclosing a device during a sterilization procedure and storing the device in sterile form thereafter, the package comprising:

a barrier film defining an interior space;

the barrier film sealing the interior space from contaminating microorganisms;

at least a portion of the barrier film being formed of a semi-permeable material

which is permeable to sterilizing gases and impermeable to contaminating microorganisms; and

at least a portion of an outer surface of the package having thereon a friction enhancing material;

wherein the friction enhancing material is applied on the semi-permeable material in a pattern while not impeding permeation of sterilizing gases; and

wherein the friction enhancing material is applied on the impermeable material in a pattern while not impairing visibility of the device.

22. (New) The sterilization package according to claim 8, wherein the silicone is selected from a group consisting of polydimethyl siloxane, polydiphenylmethyl siloxane and derivatives thereof.

23. (New) The sterilization package according to claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing material has a static coefficient of at least 0.2.